CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please replace the pending claims as amended under Article 34 with the following claim listing:

1. (Currently Amended) An enclosure for carrying out an operation under sterile conditions [[comprising]] comprises a main chamber containing a first apparatus disposed within the chamber for generating and delivering a sterilant vapour from a supply held within the chamber to be distributed throughout the chamber to sterilise the surfaces, a plenum chamber, a filter separating the plenum chamber from the main chamber, a pump for the plenum chamber for delivering air into the plenum chamber and then through the filter to the main chamber to create a filtered flow of air through the chamber and means[[to draw]] for drawing gas from the enclosure via an outlet from the plenum chamber to create a flow of sterilant vapour from the main chamber through the filter decontaminating the filter and through the plenum chamber to the outlet to sterilise the plenum chamber before exiting the outlet from the plenum chamber and to maintain pressure in the main and plenum chambers below atmospheric so that any leak paths result in leakage from the atmosphere into the chambers and does not result in release of sterilant vapour to the atmosphere around the enclosure.

2. (Currently Amended) An enclosure as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for drawing gas from the enclosure comprise a fan located in a conduit connected to an outlet from the enclosure, the conduit having means [[to render]] for rendering sterilant reaching the conduit ineffective to avoid release of sterilant to atmosphere.

3. (Currently Amended) An enclosure as claimed in claim 2, wherein the means [[to render]] for rendering the sterilant ineffective [[are]] is located upstream of the fan in relation to the enclosure.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the means [[to render]] for rendering the sterilant ineffective [[comprise]] comprises a catalytic converter for breaking the sterilant down into harmless biproducts which can be exhausted to atmosphere.

5. (Currently Amended) An enclosure as claimed in claim 3 [[or claim 4]], wherein the conduit has selectively operable valve controlled outlets of larger and smaller capacities, the smaller capacity outlet being open during said period when the enclosure is to be maintained at a predetermined reduced pressure and the larger valve controlled outlet being opened during discharge of the sterilant atmosphere from the enclosure.

6. (Currently Amended) An enclosure as claimed in [[any of the preceding claims]] claim 1 wherein the enclosure has a main chamber containing said apparatus for producing sterilant vapour and within which the operation to be carried out in the chamber is performed and a plenum chamber separated from the main chamber by a filter, the plenum chamber having a pump for delivering air into the plenum chamber through the filter to the main chamber to create a filtered flow of air through the chamber and the means for drawing gas from the chamber remote from the first apparatus is connected to the plenum chamber.

7. (original) An enclosure as claimed in claim 6, wherein a filter is provided in the outlet from the plenum chamber to the means for drawing gas from the plenum chamber.

8. (Currently Amended) An enclosure as claimed in [[any of the preceding claims]] claim 1, wherein the enclosure contains a second apparatus for rendering sterilant in the atmosphere in the chamber ineffective after the sterilisation of the chamber.

9. (original) An enclosure as claimed in claim 8, wherein the means for rendering sterilant ineffective comprises a housing containing a catalytic converter for converting the sterilant into harmless biproducts for disposal and means for circulating the atmosphere of the chamber through the housing to reduce the sterilant concentration in the atmosphere when the sterilisation operation has been performed.

10. (Currently Amended) An enclosure as claimed in [[any of the preceding claims]] claim 1, wherein the outlet from the plenum chamber contains an exhaust filter through which air/sterilant vapour is drawn from the chamber.

11. (original) An enclosure as claimed in claim 10, wherein the outlet from the plenum chamber contains two spaced filters through which sterilant vapour is drawn from the plenum chamber.

12. (New) An enclosure as claimed in claim 4, wherein the conduit has selectively operable valve controlled outlets of larger and smaller capacities, the smaller capacity outlet being open during said period when the enclosure is to be maintained at a predetermined reduced pressure and the larger valve controlled outlet being opened during discharge of the sterilant atmosphere from the enclosure.